

**Headteacher’s Question Time – Year 10**

**Tuesday 28th November 2017**

**1.15pm-1.55pm – G10**

**Panel: Mrs Adamson, Mrs Gotschel, Mr Guppy, Mr Pearce, Miss Pickford, Mrs Rolf, Mrs Verma**

**Mehreen Shezad 10G**

**When are we getting G4 back? We don’t have anywhere to eat.**

**Miss Pickford**: As you know, G4 was vandalised at the beginning of the first term. Students who witnessed the vandalism were asked to come forward, but no-one has come forward to explain and what happened and it is important for us to know.

**Mrs Gotschel**: Students had told Miss Pickford that they knew what had happened in the classroom but they would not tell. It may have been an accident or it may have been deliberate, but until someone explains what happened, we do not know. Until someone comes forward then the room will not be given back. Honesty is always the best policy and someone clearly knows what happened but will not say.

**Evelyn Byrne 10L**

**Would it be possible for students to run after school clubs, i.e. students plan them, organise**

**them and run them?**

**Mrs Gotschel**: In principle this is a very good idea. If the club is run after school then there has to be an adult supervising the club. A risk assessment would also need to be completed. If supervision can be found, then it would be very good experience for a student to organise this. You will need to put a proposal in place and present this to your review tutor.

**Henna Haravi 10L**

**Why do we have to have a seating plan? Can we not sit next to at least one person of our choice?**

**Mrs Adamson**: the main reason for the seating plan is when you are seated in the same place each time, it allows the teacher to recognise and get to know you as quickly as possible and see how well you are doing. When I have spoken to my students they often say that they don’t want to sit next to their friends as they can work better if they don’t sit next to them, as they can get distracted by their friends.

**Kushmeet Roopra 10L**

**Why don’t we have rugby or boxing clubs or lessons when we already have all of the**

**equipment needed?**

**Mr Guppy**: Tag rugby and a form of non-contact boxing takes place in KS3 sessions. We couldn’t let you play rugby as you would be really dirty when you had to go into your next lesson. If you are interested in any type of sport, then please speak to me and I can direct you to a sporting contact who would be able to assist. Miss Walters is your sports contact for the School Council so you would also be able to refer requests to Miss Walters.

**Jaspinder Kaur Shoker 10R**

**Can we have more websites or online resources to revise from?**

**Mrs Gotschel:** we are very keen to see online resources. We are developing the VLE resource and moving to Google classrooms. Whole lessons can then be uploaded and you can be assigned to different groups. I will also mention to staff about trying to get more resources and you should also speak to your subject teachers. Resources for new exams will also be available. The students said that they were particularly interested in Health & Social Care and English.

**Deeba Nasari 10R**

**Why don’t we have healthier options in the canteen?**

**Mrs Rolf**: we do offer a healthy menu as we follow the Food Standards Agency guidelines. We offer fruit, pasta and salad bars, pizza, home-made soups and the food is cooked in the oven with fried food restricted to once per week. Mrs Avery, Catering Manager, is always open to listening to new ideas if there is anything in particular you would like to suggest.

**Duwah Abid 10S**

**Why can’t we have lanyards instead of year badges? Lots of people forget or lose their badges.**

**Miss Pickford**: If you are a school council member you are allowed to wear a lanyard. We have badges for students as it is more difficult to swap a badge than a lanyard. Also it would be expensive to have different coloured lanyards for each year group and we would be restricted with the colours that we could use. It seems to be a bit of a fad at the moment to have lanyards and we will stick to badges. We had the same discussion about blazers last year, but when we conducted a survey the results were 50/50.

**Mrs Gotschel**: When visitors come into school they are given either a red or green coloured lanyard. If the visitor is wearing a red lanyard, this indicates that the person needs to be accompanied at all times and this keeps you safe. If you do see a visitor alone who is wearing a red lanyard, then you need to alert someone straight away.

**Sonum Dubb 10S**

**Why do we have to pick a language for GCSE? Some schools don’t make you choose a GCSE language.**

**Mrs Verma**: The Government defines that everyone has to study an Ebac subject which includes a language.

**Mrs Götschel**: These subjects are very important and are useful for later on when you apply for a place in college, university or a job as it is a standard expectation that you will have studied these subjects and we cannot allow you to be disadvantaged by not allowing you to study a language. I have been told that some organisations offer an extra £1,000 per year in wages for each language that can be spoken in addition to English.

**Simran Purewal 10S**

When are you going to rebuild this building to match the new builds?

**Mrs Götschel:** School funding is at crisis point. A lot of schools are making staff redundant and some are stopping curriculum subjects being taught. Previously we submitted three bids for science rooms, replacement windows and, as part of the PSB programme, a bid for both Lordswood Girls’ and Boys’ schools and money was given to both of the schools. Money was given to the Girls’ School to rebuild the gym, the sixth form and the science labs. Money was also given to the Boys’ School and this will be used to knock down the existing school and rebuild. We are now working on a bid to improve other facilities in the school for the reception area and for mobility around the site. We have to compete with bids from other schools and there is now less money to go around.

**Keshef Maqsood 10L**

**When will the sixth from building be finished?**

**Mrs Rolf**: we were hoping that the build would be completed by Christmas but this has been delayed. We are having a lot of meetings to try and accelerate the completion date as there is a lack of space in school and we need the new building as soon as possible, but we are relying on the contractors so the delays are beyond our control.

**Lucinda Benton-Hawthorn 10L**

**Why do we have to have trainee teachers in our classes?**

**Mrs Adamson**: all trainee teachers spend a year at university but the best way to learn is to go into schools and actually teach so the trainees go out on two school placements during the year to practice teaching. The trainees are never left alone with students and they are always supported by a teacher so that the students are not affected by having a trainee teaching them. Trainees always report that they like coming to Lordswood Girls’ School. We only place the trainee teachers in some subject areas and not with all groups. They do not teach year 11 students who are close to GCSE exams although we try to give them a taster of both GCSE and A level teaching.

**As there was a little time available, the students were asked if there were any other questions they would like to ask:-**

**Why do we only do French and Spanish languages?**

**Mrs Götschel:** having a European language is very useful and French and Spanish are the most important in the EU for business but we will need to see what happens after Brexit.

**Why can’t girls wear their own black headscarfs?**

**Mrs Götschel**: We did let students do this previously, but there was a health and safety hazard caused by dangly bits on the headscarf which could easily get caught and cause a possible injury. The students also wore headscarves with loads of fabric wrapped around their heads, and students then got picked up for wearing inappropriate headwear. This was discussed at the School Council and they asked for a standard headscarf. Miss Millward obtained samples and the current headscarf was chosen. However, we know that the fabric on some of the headscarves change colour so we are looking at this.

**Is the school broke? If we go on trips the students have to pay for themselves and for the staff.**

**Mrs Gotschel**: the costs that students pay are the actual costs charged by the company. The companies don’t always include insurance costs and these costs then have to be added. When trips have been organised, only a few students want to go on the trip as they are too expensive. The school is given money from the government but this has to be used for the curriculum and cannot be used to subsidise trips.

**Mr Pearce thanked the students for giving up their lunchtime to attend the Headteacher’s Question Time.**